

American Foreign Ministers Hold Informal Meeting at Washington

DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Press release 594 dated October 1

At the invitation of Secretary Rusk, the foreign ministers of the 19 American Republics or their representatives will meet informally at the State Department October 2 and 3. While the meeting is not being held within the framework of the Organization of American States, the Secretary General of the OAS also will attend.

The principal subject for this exchange of views will be the situation in Cuba, and in keeping with the informality of the meeting it is not expected that formal speeches will be made. The sessions will be closed, and there will be no formal agenda, voting, official minutes, or resolutions.

TEXT OF FINAL COMMUNIQUE

Press release 598 dated October 3

Following is the text of a final communique issued at the conclusion of an informal meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the American Republics, at Washington, D.C., October 2-3.

In their informal meeting held in Washington, D.C. on October 2 and 3, 1962, the Foreign Min-

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isters and Special Representatives of the American Republics discussed in a spirit of strong friendship and cooperation the serious problems that face the Western Hemisphere. Although the informal character of the meeting precluded formal decisions or resolutions, which are in the competence of the appropriate bodies of the OAS, the meeting was marked by extraordinary solidarity on matters affecting the security and well-being of the hemispheric system. The Ministers reviewed the resolutions adopted at the Eighth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs,¹ the progress made in response to them, and further steps which might be taken to give effect to those resolutions.

During the meeting it was manifest that at the present juncture the most urgent of these problems is the Sino-Soviet intervention in Cuba as an attempt to convert the island into an armed base for communist penetration of the Americas and subversion of the democratic institutions of the Hemisphere. The meeting reiterated its adherence to the principles of self-determination, nonintervention and democracy as guiding standards of relations among the American nations.

The meeting reflected the opinion that now more than ever it is necessary to strengthen the system of representative democracy and to redouble the efforts being made to bring harmonious progress to the peoples, and the earliest and most effective improvement in their standard of living, within the framework of the Alliance for Progress, and with the most complete respect for human rights. Special consideration shall be given to expanding markets and increasing prices of Latin American primary products.

The meeting reasserted the firm intention of the Governments represented and of the peoples of the American Republics to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles of the regional system, staunchly sustaining and consolidating the principles of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and affirmed the will to strengthen the security of the Hemisphere against all aggression from within or outside the Hemisphere and against all developments or situations capable of threatening the peace and security of the Hemisphere through the application of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance of Rio

de Janeiro. It was the view of the Ministers that the existing organizations and bodies of the inter-American system should intensify the carrying out of their respective duties with special and urgent attention to the situation created by the Marxist-Leninist regime in Cuba and that they should stand in readiness to consider the matter promptly if the situation requires measures beyond those already authorized.

In the ideological struggle against communism, destroyer of man's liberties, the meeting expressed the desire that the resources and methods inherent in the democratic system should be mobilized to bring the peoples to realize fully the difference between totalitarianism and democracy.

The meeting reaffirmed its "repudiation of repressive measures which, under the pretext of isolating or combatting communism, may facilitate the appearance or strengthening of reactionary doctrines and methods which attempt to repress ideas of social progress and to confuse truly progressive and democratic labor organizations and cultural and political movements with communist subversion."²

The meeting observed that the inter-American regional system has had since its beginnings characteristics of its own that are expressed in specific provisions agreed upon by a community of nations for its collective security and, therefore, that a military intervention of communist powers in Cuba cannot be justified as a situation analogous to the defensive measures adopted in other parts of the Free World in order to face Soviet imperialism.

The meeting expressed the need for undertaking the actions called for by Resolution VIII of the Eighth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, especially paragraph 2, also including the use of their ships in the Cuban trade, in the light of the new developments taking place in Cuba. It also called upon all other independent countries to review their policies in this regard.

The meeting agreed that it is necessary for the countries, in accordance with their laws and constitutional precepts, to intensify measures to prevent agents and groups of international communism from carrying on their activities of a subversive nature.

The meeting recalled that the Soviet Union's

¹ For background and texts of resolutions, see BULLETIN of Feb. 19, 1962, p. 270.

² Resolution I, *ibid.*, p. 278.

intervention in Cuba threatens the unity of the Americas and of its democratic institutions, and that this intervention has special characteristics which, pursuant to paragraph 3 of Resolution II of the Eighth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, call for the adoption of special measures, both individual and collective.

The meeting observed that it is desirable to intensify individual and collective surveillance of the delivery of arms and implements of war and all other items of strategic importance to the communist regime of Cuba, in order to prevent the secret accumulation in the island of arms that can be used for offensive purposes against the Hemisphere.

The meeting concurred in the wish that studies be undertaken urgently, in accordance with Resolution II of the Eighth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, of the transfer of funds to the other American Republics for subversive purposes, the flow of subversive propaganda and the utilization of Cuba as a base for training in subversive techniques.

The meeting voiced the traditional fraternal affection of all the American peoples for the people of Cuba and their deep sympathy for the victims of the present regime, and expressed the hope that the Cuban people may return as a full member of the democratic American family of nations, under a government compatible with the purposes and principles of the inter-American system.